

a strong drive to make sure that every single citizen has a chance.

And so I remind my fellow Americans, it doesn't take much to be a part of a change, to be a part of the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness that will define the true face of our country. Mentor a child. Go to a shut-in's house and say, "Can I help you?" Be a part of the Boys and Girls Clubs. I met a young man who—today who wants to run a—is going to run an after-school program in the Boys and Girls Club. He's a junior in high school. He heard the call. Join the Peace Corps. If you're a youngster, be a member of the USA Freedom Corps. Serve a country by serving a neighbor in need. And that's what's taking place.

You know, I first got into politics because I believed our culture ought to change from one that said, "If it feels good, do it," and "If you've got a problem, blame somebody else," to a culture which says, "Each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life." And if you're a mom or a dad, you're responsible for loving your children with all your heart and all your soul. If you're living in Nashville, Tennessee, you're responsible for the quality of education in the neighborhoods; you're responsible for the quality of life. If you're running a corporation in America, you're responsible to your shareholders and your employees to tell the truth and not lie about your books. If you're a responsible America, it means you love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. And that's what's happening.

There's no question in my mind this great country is going to rise to the challenges we face. There's no doubt in my mind that by remaining strong and steadfast, we can win the war on terror and help the world become more peaceful. And there's no doubt in my mind that we can find those dark corners of hopelessness and help bring light, by loving them—by loving a neighbor in need.

You know why I say "no doubt in my mind"? Because this is the finest country on the face of the Earth, full of the most decent, honorable people. I'm proud you came today. I'm proud to support Lamar Alexander.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:55 a.m. in the East Exhibit Hall at the Nashville Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Honey Alexander, wife of candidate Lamar Alexander; Tennessee gubernatorial candidate Van Hilleary; Ted Welch, finance chairman, Alexander for Senate; Beth Harwell, chairman, and Stephanie Chivers, national committeewoman, Tennessee Republican Party; David Kustoff, candidate for Tennessee's Seventh Congressional District; Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and Boys and Girls Club volunteer Harry Ingle, Jr.

Remarks at East Literature Magnet School in Nashville *September 17, 2002*

Thank you all for coming. Thanks for that warm welcome—really warm welcome. [Laughter] Across America today, Americans are reciting 31 words—words that help

define our country. In one sentence, we affirm our form of government, our belief in human dignity, our unity as a people, and our reliance on Providence.

And this pledge takes on a special meaning in a time of war. Our enemies hate these words. That's what you've got to understand. They hate the words, and they want to erase them. We're determined to stand for these words and live them out in our lives. Our allegiance has never been stronger. We've never been more determined. And we must work to teach our children to love our Nation as much as we do.

I want to thank you all for coming today. I particularly want to thank our Secretary of Education for traveling with me, Rod Paige. I picked Rod out of a lot of really good candidates because I wanted somebody to be in Washington who had actually been on the frontlines of educating every child. We didn't need any more theory in Washington. We needed people that had actually done. And when we talk about raising the bar and challenging the soft bigotry of low expectations, so that every child can learn, when we talk about having an accountability system to make sure no child is left behind, our Secretary of Education has actually done it. He ran one of the largest school districts in my State, our State, and he did so with class and dignity. And the children of Houston, Texas, are better off for it. Mr. Secretary, thank you for coming.

I'm also proud to be sharing the stage with another superintendent, Pedro Garcia. *Mucho gusto, Pedro*. Pedro is a good leader. It's very interesting—we were talking before we came out here and Pedro was a part of what they call Operation Pedro Pan—Operation Peter Pan. So, by the way, was a member of my Cabinet, Mel Martinez. When both Pedro and Mel were young men, their parents wanted their children to grow up in freedom, so they put them on an airplane to a foreign land. They had great faith in America, faith—so much faith in the ideals of our country that they were willing to trust their teenage children with a stranger in a foreign country. And they came and were loved. I don't know

about, Pedro, whether your mom and dad came, but Mel's mother and daddy came.

And I want you all to remember these stories about Pedro, who's now your superintendent of school, or Mel, who's in my Cabinet, that this country offered so much hope and so much promise, because we believe so strongly in freedom that people such as the Garcias and the Martinezes were willing to give up their children so they could grow up in a free society. I love the story of Pedro Pan. I love the job you're doing, and I wish you all the best.

And I'm also so appreciative for Kaye, Kaye Schneider, the principal of East Literature Magnet School, for opening up this school. She said it's been an amazing experience. I bet it has, with all these—[laughter]—all these advance people and all the entourage here. But thanks for opening up this great school. I'm here because this is a center of excellence, a school that refuses to leave any child behind, and it starts with having a good, solid, sound principal. So Kaye, thank you very much.

I want to thank all the teachers who are here. Thank you for taking on a noble profession. Old Sam Houston, he used to live in Tennessee. And at one time he had been the Governor of Texas and a Senator from Texas. And he was a famous Tennessee guy, and he was a President of the Republic of Texas. And they said, "Of all the jobs you've ever had, Sam, what was the most important one?" He said, without hesitation, "teacher," because he had been a teacher.

I want to thank the mothers and dads who are here. Thank you for coming. You too are teachers. The best education starts at home, by loving your children with all your heart and all your soul. I want to thank the students who are here. Thanks for letting me come by and visit with you.

I appreciate so very much elected officials who have come today: Senator Fred Thompson, Senator Bill Frist, Congressman Zach Wamp, Congressman Van Hilleary,

Congressman Bob Clement, Congressman Bart Gordon, Congressman Ed Bryant. I want to thank your mayor, Bill Purcell, for coming as well, the mayor of Nashville. Thank my friend Lamar Alexander for being here.

But most of all, I want to thank you all for giving me a chance to come and share some thoughts. It is very important for our youngsters to understand history, the history of our country, the ideals that make our country strong. This morning in the Rose Garden I kicked off a national initiative, and I'm going to describe some of what we're going to do to make sure that we teach more history to our children.

Especially important in a time of war that our children understand the context of why we fight. You see, ours is a history of freedom. One of the most precious ideals we have is freedom for everybody. We love our freedoms. We love the idea of being a free society. And throughout our history, people have fought for freedom. Whether it's been in the Revolutionary War or the heroic struggle to end slavery or civil rights wars in the United States Congress or whether it's World War II where we fought to free people from tyranny, the history of this Nation has been a history of freedom and justice.

Our children are growing up in a difficult time for America, because they see on their TV screens the fact that America is now a battlefield. When we were kids, or a lot of us were kids, growing up, oceans separated us from danger. We were confident in our ability to resist evil because evil could never make it to our shore, unless it was created internally. But now we've entered a new period where we're vulnerable. It's tough for our children to comprehend that, I know.

But you've got to understand why we're vulnerable, and that is because there are people in the world that hate the fact that we love freedom. People cannot stand the fact that your great Nation not only allows but encourages people to worship an al-

mighty God in any way they want to. We welcome that in America.

We speak our mind freely. All you've got to do is remember it's an election year. [Laughter] We believe in a free press. And we're not going to change. We love our freedoms. Our history has taught us that. And today, we love them just as strongly as others in the past have.

The other thing the children are learning is the notion of people serving something greater than themselves in life. You know, I think one of the most defining moments of the recent American history was Flight 93. Flight 93 is an amazing lesson. Laura and I had the honor of going to the site there in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, the other day to hug and cry and visit with and smile with—if they wanted to smile—with the family members of those brave souls who were on that airplane.

But it's a lesson of people loving freedom so much and loving their country so much, that they're willing to drive a plane into the ground to save other people's lives. What a powerful message, that part of being an American is to serve something greater than yourself, part of being a citizen in this great land is to not only take from the land but to give.

So today, when you realize there are military people looking in caves in Afghanistan or moving around the world to try to fight tyranny and terrorism, they do so to serve something greater than themselves, because of a strong ideal, a strong sense of purpose, a strong sense of country.

You've got to understand there are some in this world that simply do not adhere to the ideals we believe in. In Iraq, they don't put their hand over their heart and say, "Liberty and justice for all." They don't believe in liberty. The dictator who runs Iraq doesn't believe in justice. He only believes in liberty and justice for those who he decides get liberty and justice.

There's a lot of talk about Iraq on our TV screens, and there should be, because we're trying to figure out how best to make

the world a peaceful place. There's an old saying in Tennessee—I know it's in Texas, probably in Tennessee—that says, fool me once, shame on—shame on you. Fool me—you can't get fooled again. You've got to understand the nature of the regime we're dealing with. This is a man who has delayed, denied, deceived the world. For the sake of liberty and justice for all, the United Nations Security Council must act, must act in a way to hold this regime to account, must not be fooled, must be relevant to keep the peace.

Part of the American history teaches us that we must lead toward a more peaceful world. Part of the history of the world shows that as threats develop, we must deal with them before they become too acute, unmanageable. Part of our history is, is that we're a peaceful people. We love and long for peace, that we want peace for generations to come. But sometimes we must act in order to achieve the peace.

And all our history says we believe in liberty and justice for all, that we see oppression, we cry; that when we found out that young girls in Afghanistan could not go to school because they were in the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind, we acted not only to uphold doctrine and to fight the war against terror, we acted to liberate people. Our history shows that we're not a nation which conquers. We're a nation which liberates.

History is important for our children to understand, to give them a better sense of how to understand what we do and a sense of what it means to be an American, a sense of importance of serving something greater than yourself in life.

The first initiative that we're going to put out is called *We the People*, which will encourage American history and civic education all around the country. There will be a grant program to encourage the development of good curricula and a lecture series and essays by high school students on liberty and justice and freedom.

We've got a great store of documents here in America, and so we're going to put out a program called *Our Documents*. The national Archivist is going to work with us to make sure all of the archives of America are now online, so schools can easily tap in to find out how our history developed through the archives of the country. It ought to be a really interesting way for our students to learn more about America.

We're going to have a White House forum there in Washington, DC—obviously, that's where the White House is—in January or February of next year, to call in experts as to how better teach our history, and at the same time, teach the ideals that make us a great nation. We're going to do our part at the Federal level. It's very important that you all do your part here in Nashville, Tennessee, and insist upon good civics lessons, the true lessons of history, to make sure our children understand the ideals that make us great.

And one of the things our youngsters and those of us not quite so young can do—and this is important—is to celebrate patriotism by loving your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. You see, it's important to realize that one person can't do everything to change America, but one person can do something. Every child who hurts, who receives your love, is part of changing America for the better, is part of fighting evil with acts of kindness and decency.

I met Harry Ingle, Jr., at Air Force One. He's an East Literature Magnet student. He's a junior. He was out there because he is involved with mentoring children. He's a soldier in the army of compassion here in Nashville, Tennessee. He's a part of the true strength of America, which is neighbor loving neighbor, those of us who are on our feet helping those who aren't on their feet. He's a part of the light that can help shine into corners of darkness where there may be despair and addiction and loneliness.

No, part of patriotism is not just to put a hand over our heart, but part of being a patriot is to serve the ideals of this country by serving something greater than yourself. I want the students here to understand that this great Nation of ours longs for peace, but we also want to practice compassion. And you can be a part of the compassionate future by helping somebody in need.

It is an honor to be here at this fine school, in this fine city, in this great State, to celebrate with millions of students all across the country the Pledge of Allegiance,

the Pledge across America. It is my honor to be here to remind people of the great ideals of the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:05 p.m. in the school's auditorium. In his remarks, he referred to Pedro Garcia, director of schools, Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools; Mayor Bill Purcell of Nashville; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on Telecommunications Payments to Cuba *September 17, 2002*

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, as amended by section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6), I transmit herewith a semiannual report prepared by my Administration detailing payments made to Cuba by United States persons as a result of the provision of telecommuni-

cations services pursuant to Department of the Treasury specific licenses.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
September 17, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 18.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Congressional Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters *September 18, 2002*

The President. Listen, I want to thank the Vice President and the leadership of the Congress for coming down for breakfast today. We had a really good discussion about our common concerns. The leadership is committed to moving important legislation forward, legislation that will help expand our job base. We talked about the energy bill. We talked about terrorism in-

surance. We talked about the defense appropriations. We talked about the appropriations process.

We also talked about Iraq. We talked about the fact that Saddam Hussein has stiffed the United Nations for 11 long years and that, once again, he said—made some kind of statement, trying to take the pressure off of himself. This statement about